

REMARKS

Claims 1-19 are pending in this application. Claim 15 is objected to; and claims 1-5, 7-13 and 15-19 are rejected. Claims 6 and 14 are allowed. Claims 1, 10, 15 and 18 are amended hereby.

Responsive to the objection to claim 15, Applicants have amended claim 15 keeping in mind the comments of the Examiner. Applicants respectfully submit that claim 15 is in allowable form.

Responsive to the rejection of claims 1-5, 7-10, 12, 13 and 15-19 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,964,618 (McCarthy), Applicants have amended claims 1, 10 and 18, and submit that claims 1-5, 7-10, 12, 13 and 15-19 are in condition for allowance.

McCarthy '618 discloses a removable desktop electrical receptacle unit (Figs. 1 and 2) including a housing 4, an electrical power cord 6, a coupling 10, electrical receptacles 12 and a plate-like mounting element 14. Mounting element 14 extends downwardly from the bottom surface of housing 4 having a key-hole shaped slot 16 for receiving therein a screw 18 where the free end of the screw passes through an opening 20 defined in a segment of a clamp element 22, and a wing nut 24 is removably mounted to the forward portion of the screw 18 extending forwardly from the opening 20. Clamp element 22 includes vertical element 26, angled component 28 and horizontal portion 30. Clamp element 22 is removably mounted to mounting element 14, such that clamp element 22 is vertically movable up and down on mounting element 14. Clamp element 22 may be releasably locked in a selected position on mounting element 14 (column 3, lines 7-51). Electrical receptacle unit 2 is removably mounted to work surface 36 such that mounting element 14 extends down and below one end of work surface 36 and clamp

element 22 is selectively moved relative to mounting element 14 until it abuts against a lower surface of work surface 36. Clamp element 22 is then releasably locked into position (column 4, lines 39-46).

In contrast, claim 1, as amended, recites in part: “a bracket threadably connected with said adjustment element, . . . said compressive surface movable in directions toward and away from said mounting surface by rotating said adjustment element”. (Emphasis added.) Applicants submit that such an invention is neither taught, disclosed nor suggested by McCarthy ‘618 or any of the other cited references, alone or in combination, and has distinct advantages thereover.

In further contrast, claim 10, as amended, recites in part: “a bracket threadably connected with said adjustment element, . . . said compressive surface movable in directions toward and away from said mounting surface by rotating said adjustment element”. (Emphasis added.) Applicants submit that such an invention is neither taught, disclosed nor suggested by McCarthy ‘618 or any of the other cited references, alone or in combination, and has distinct advantages thereover.

In further contrast, claim 18, as amended, recites in part: “a movable bracket threadably connected to said adjustment element; moving said movable bracket relative to said housing by rotating said adjustment element . . .”. (Emphasis added.) Applicants submit that such an invention is neither taught, disclosed nor suggested by McCarthy ‘618 or any of the other cited references, alone or in combination, and has distinct advantages thereover.

McCarthy ‘618 discloses a removable desktop electrical receptacle unit including a housing, a plate-like mounting element with a key-hole shaped slot for receiving therein a screw, where the free end of the screw passes through an opening defined in a segment of a clamp element, and a wing nut is removably mounted to the forward portion of the screw. The

removable desktop electrical receptacle unit of McCarthy '618 requires a two-handed operation to adjust the position of the receptacle, one hand for actuating wing nut 24 and another hand for holding clamp element 22 compressively against the work surface. Further, McCarthy '618 requires that the wing nut and clamp element be loosened below the worksurface, the receptacle unit be repositioned above the worksurface, and the wing nut and clamp element be tightened below the worksurface; whereas the present invention can be adjusted simply by loosening the adjustment element and bracket above the worksurface, repositioning the electrical workstation module above the worksurface and retightening the adjustment element and bracket above the worksurface. McCarthy '618 fails to disclose or suggest a bracket threadably connected with the adjustment element, and the compressive surface movable in directions toward and away from the mounting surface by rotating the adjustment element.

An advantage of the present invention is that the adjustment element is accessible from the top side of the worksurface. A further advantage to the present invention is that adjusting the adjusting element and bracket is a single-handed operation.

For all of the foregoing reasons, Applicants submit that claim 1, 10 and 18, and claims 2-5, 7-9, 12, 13, 15-17 and 19 depending therefrom, are in condition for allowance, which is hereby respectfully requested.

Responsive to the rejection of claims 3 and 11 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious by U.S. Patent No. 5,964,618 (McCarthy) in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,501,614 (Tsuchiya), Applicants have amended claims 1 and 10, and submit that claims 3 and 11 are in condition for allowance. The amendments to claims 1 and 10 described above distinguish claims 1 and 10, and any dependent claims including claims 3 and 11, from the cited prior art including McCarthy '618 and Tsuchiya '614. For all of the foregoing reasons, Applicants submit that claim 1 and 10, and

claims 3 and 11 depending therefrom, are in condition for allowance, which is hereby respectfully requested.

At page 4 of the Office Action claims 6 and 14 are indicated allowed, for which courtesy the Examiner is thanked. For all of the foregoing reasons, Applicants submit that claims 6 and 14 are in condition for allowance, which is hereby respectfully requested.

For the foregoing reasons, Applicants submit that no combination of the cited references teaches, discloses or suggests the subject matter of the amended claims. The pending claims are therefore in condition for allowance, and Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of all rejections and allowance of the claims.

In the event Applicants have overlooked the need for an extension of time, an additional extension of time, payment of fee, or additional payment of fee, Applicants hereby conditionally petition therefor and authorizes that any charges be made to Deposit Account No. 20-0095,
TAYLOR & AUST, P.C.

Should any question concerning any of the foregoing arise, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at (260) 897-3400.

Respectfully submitted,


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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: MS Amendment, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on: March 30, 2005.

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March 30, 2005

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